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Message Text

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ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DODE-00 AGR-20

ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /123 W
---------- 002877
R 041020Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1483
CDC ATLANTA
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 785

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA
SUBJECT: CDC NUTRITION SURVEY/MAURITANIA. REPORT WEEK
ENDING 9/2/73.

SUMMARY: COMPLETED NUTRITIONAL SURVEY IN EASTERN MAURITANIA (FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD REGIONS). MOST STRIKING FINDING WAS VERY HIGH RATES OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION (UP TO 28 PERCENT OF CHILDREN EXAMINED) AND MARASMUS (UP TO 33 PERCENT OF CHILDREN EXAMINED) IN VILLAGES OF FIRST REGION, PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED BY MINHEALTH AS THE REGION LEAST AFFECTED BY THE DROUGHT. SITUATION DUE TO EXTREMELY LONG SUPLLY LINES WHICH HAVE BEEN FREQUENTLY INTERRUPTED BY AUGUST RAINS. SITUATION IN FIRST REGION CONSTITUTES A NUTRITIONAL EMERGENCY WHICH GIRM HOPES TO SOLVE BY INSTITUTION FOOD AIRLIFT REPORTED SEPTEL. SECOND AND THIRD REGIONS ALSO MARKEDLY AFFECTED, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT LOWER RATES OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION AND MARASMUS WERE FOUND. OF THE THREE REGIONS, THE THIRD IS IN THE BEST CONDITION (PARTICULARLY IN ITS SOUTHERN PORTION) WITH MODERATE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS SURVIVING AND SUFFICIENT RAIN TO INSURE A REASONABLE HARVEST THIS YEAR. OFFICIALS IN OTHER AREAS VISITED SKEPTICAL CONCERNING HARVEST PROSPECTS.

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1. NEMA: FOUR CLUSTERS SAMPLED. WITH COMMENCEMENT OF RAINS

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THOSE NOMADS WITH SURVIVING ANIMALS HAVE BEGUN TO RETURN TO
THE BUSH. THUS THOSE LEFT IN CITY WERE IN WORST CONDITION OD
ALL EXAMINED (ACUTE MALNUTRITION - 27 PERCENT; MARASMUS -
33 PERCENT) REFLECTING THEIR LACK OF PERSONAL RESOURCES AND
INABILITY GIRM EMERGENCY FOOD TO REACH THEM DUE TO ENORMOUS
TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES (DISTANCE, WASHED OUT ROADS AND TERRAIN).
THIS SITUATION CONTRASTS WITH FIFTH AND SIXTH REGIONS WHERE
CITY DWELLERS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN THOSE FURTHER AWAY.
THE CONDITION OF NOMADIC CAMPS IN FIRST REGION VARIES
DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS STILL ALIVE. FOR EXAMPLE,
ACUTE MALNUTRITION AS LOW AS 14.8 PERCENT AND AS HIGH AS
28 PERCENT IN TWO CAMPS ONLY 20 KM APART, THE FORMER WITH A
MODERATE NUMBER OF ANIMALS, THE LATTER WITH VERY FEW. NO
KWASHIORKOR, NUTRITIONAL EDEMA AND LOW RATES OF AVITAMINOSES
IN THIS REGION. MOST MEDICATION STOCKS IN NEMA SUFFICIENT
(WITH EXCEPTION OF ANTI-MALARIALS) AS RESULT WORK PRC
MEDICAL MISSION THERE. MEASLES EPIDEMIC OCCURRED IN EARLY
1973 AND ENDED IN MAY 1973. MALARIA AND DIARRHEA THE TWO
MAJOR MEDICAL PROBLEMS. MOST RECENT FOOD DISTRIBUTION (EARLY
JULY) CONSISTED OF 2 KG GRAIN AND 1 KG POWDERED MILK PER
PERSON PER MONTH. THE SITUATION HERE CONSTITUTES A NUTRITIONAL
EMERGENCY WHICH GIRM HOPES TO SOLVE BY INSTITUTION
FOOD AIRLIFT REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. AIOUN EL ATROUS: ONE CLUSTER SAMPLED IN THE CITY ITSELF.
OF THE CHILDREN EXAMINED, 23.2 PERCENT FELL BELOW 80 PERCENT
STUART-MEREDITH AND 10.4 PERCENT WERE MARASMIC. EMERGENCY
FOOD DELIVERIES DIFFICULT BUT MORE REGULAR THAN NEMA.
LAST GRAIN DISTRIBUTION (EARLY JULY) CONSISTED OF 5-7 KG OF
GRAIN AND 1 KG OF POWDERED MILK PER PERSON PER MONTH. RAINS
HAVE BEGUN HERE TOO, AND NOMADS WITH ANIMALS HAVE BEGUN TO
RETURN TO THE DESERT. REASONABLE AMOUNT OF GRASS NOW AVAILABLE.
AGAIN, MALARIA AND DIARRHEA ARE THE WO MAJOR MEDICAL PROBLEMS.
MEASLES EPIDEMIC HERE ALSO TERMINATED IN MAY. THIS CITY
ALSO HAS RESIDENT CHINESE MEDICAL MISSION.

3. KIFFA: FOUR CLUSTERS SAMPLED. AGAIN, ACUTE MALNUTRITION
RATES WERE HIGHLY VARIABLE: I.E., FROM 20 PERCENTN N ONE
QUARTER OF THE CITY ITSELF TO ZERO PERCENT IN A NOMADIC CAMP
WHICH HAS BEEN THE SITE OF AN INTENSIVE RELIEF EFFORT
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FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF WIDESPREAD SEVERE MALNUTRITIOM
THERE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. MARASMUS RATES FROM ZERO TO
AS HIGH AS TEN PERCENT (THE LATTER AMONG A GROUP OF NOMADS
WHO HAD BEEN ISOLATED AND NOT ABLE TO RECEIVE GIRM FOOD
DISTRIBUTION). VERY LITTLE AVITAMINOSES. VIRAL HEPATITIS OUTBREAK
IS NOW UNDERWAY, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 110 CASES PER MONTH SINCE
MAY 1973. MEASLES EPIDEMIC TERMINATED IN APRIL 1973.
MAJOR MEDICAL PROBLEMS AT THE MOMENT ARE MALARIA AND DIARRHEA.

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4. CHOLERA: THE CHOLERA OUTBREAK HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY DECLARED TERMINATED. NO CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED SINCE AUGUST 22, 1973. FINAL SUMMARY:

ROSSO: 91 CASES WITH 22 DEATHS (12 AMONG UNTREATED VICTIMS)
MOUDJERIA: 54 CASES WITH 7 DEATHS (7 AMONG UNTREATED VICTIMS)
NOUAKCHOTT: 4 CASES WITH 0 DEATHS
KAEIDI: 1 CASE WITH 0 DEATHS

TOTAL: 150 CASES, 44 DEATHS (19 OF WHICH WERE IN UNTREATED VICTIMS). THESE DATA ARE THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FIGURES AND HAVE BEEN SO REPORTED TO WHO.

5. 5. MEASLES: TOTAL REPORTED CASES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 4248. CASES REPORTED FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 380 (INCOMPLETE). TOTAL REPORTED CASES FOR THE YEAR THROUGH JULY 1973 11,850. CASE REPORTS BY REGION TO FOLLOW BY POUCH. SHURTLEFF

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NOUAKC00785
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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